

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 EUR-25 OMB-01 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 040845Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8108

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4824

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, MY

SUBJ: OCTOBER 1 IN KUALA LUMPUR

REF: A) FBIS OKINAWA 030257Z OCT 74

B) FBIS OKINAWA 022205Z OCT 74

C) KL 4473

1. SUMMARY: FIRST PRC NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION TO BE HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR WAS WELL ATTENDED BY MALAYSIAN CABINET AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SIGNIFYING THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY THE GOM TO SEPT 17 EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. END OF SUMMARY.

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2. PRC CHARGE LI CHUNG YING HOSTED OCT 1 RECEPTION AT MERLIN

HOTEL WHICH WAS FIRST LEGAL CELEBRATION OF THIS KIND IN MALAYSIA. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORT (US EMBASSY WAS NOT INVITED AND WAS NOT INCLUDED AMONG ADDRESSEES ON CIRCULAR NOTE ANNOUNCING OPENING OF PRC'S TEMPORARY OFFICE IN MERLIN) THAT ABOUT 200 OUT OF AN EXPECTED 300 GUESTS ATTENDED (A GOOD PERCENTAGE BY KL STANDARDS). TOASTS WERE EXCHANGED WITH "DUTY" MINISTER, ALI HAJI AHMAD OF CULTURE YOUTH AND SPORTS, BUT GUESTS ALSO INCLUDED MINISTERS OF HEALTH, WELFARE SERVICES, HOUSING AND NEW VILLAGES, GENERAL PLANNING, LOCAL GOVT AND ENVIRONMENT, AS WELL AS THE DEPUTY MINISTERS OF EDUCATION, TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS, PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, AND LAW. AMONG OTHER HIGH LEVEL GUESTS WERE SENATE PRESIDENT ONG YOKE LIN AND SEVERAL SENATORS, MFA SEC GEN ZAITON AND MANY SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS, ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF TAN SRI IBRAHIM, INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE HANIFF, CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN KL FROM COUNTRIES RECOGNIZING PEKING, LOCAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVES AND REPS OF AGENCIES WITH OFFICES IN PEKING (REUTERS, AFP) AS WELL AS MANY MALAYSIAN CHINESE BUSINESSMEN.

3. GUESTS AT THE RECEPTION REPORTED THAT THE ATMOSPHERE WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND THAT LI AND HIS INTERPRETER, THIRD SECRETARY WANG HSUEH HSIEN, WERE SURROUNDED BY THE FIVE MINISTERS THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE EVENING. THEY ALSO REPORTED THAT LI SEEMED TO BE TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON WANG FOR ENGLISH, BUT THAT FIRST SECRETARY SHIH CHIEN, WHO IS IMPOSING PHYSICALLY, SPEAKS ENGLISH FLUENTLY AND SEEMED TO BE ACTING AS DIRECTOR OF THE EVENT. MOST MALAYSIAN GUESTS HAD LEFT BY 9:30 AS IS THEIR CUSTOM BUT A NUMBER OF MALAYSIAN CHINESE BUSINESSMEN REMAINED AFTER THAT TIME EXCHANGING MAO TAI GAN PEIS.

4. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED CONGRATULATIONS SENT TO TUNG PIWU AND CHOU EN LAI BY KING AND PRIME MINISTER, RESPECTIVELY. ALL SEGMENTS OF PRESS (ENGLISH, CHINESE, MALAY) GAVE EVENT GOOD COVERAGE INCLUDING EDITORIALS.

5. COMMENT: PARTY WAS APPARENT SUCCESS TO ALL BUT RUSSIANS WHOSE DCM TOLD AMERICAN CHARGE HE HAD ASKED MALAYSIANS WHY GOM HAD DEVIATED FROM PRACTICE OF HAVING DEPUTY MINISTER HANDLE TOAST IF DIPLOMATIC MISSION HEADED BY CHARGE. (HE WAS TOLD MALAYSIANS PERCEIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POST WITHOUT AMBASSADOR
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AND ONE TO WHICH AMBASSADOR ALREADY ACCREDITED.) LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE, WHICH MOST DIPLOMATS CONCEDE IS FAR ABOVE THAT EXPERIENCED BY OTHER MISSIONS EXCEPT FOR INDONESIANS AND UK, LEAVES NO QUESTION THAT MALAYSIANS DESIRED TO UNDERSCORE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO CHINESE PRESENCE HERE. LARGE NUMBER OF MALAYSIAN CHINESE FROM MCA LEADERSHIP WHO ATTENDED ALSO SHOWED DESIRE OF THAT PARTY TO FOLLOW-UP ON ELECTION CAMPAIGN ASSERTIONS THAT IT REPRESENTS ALL CHINESE GROUPS IN MALAYSIA AND TO BURY

ITS ONETIME ASSOCIATION WITH KMT. ALL OF THIS IS NOT SURPRISING
IN VIEW DOMESTIC POLITICAL EMPHASIS PLACED ON CHINA RELATIONS
BY PRIME MINISTER RAZAK. CRUNCH WILL COME AS MALAYSIANS AND
CHINESE TACKLE SUCH TENDER ISSUES AS CITIZENSHIP FOR STATELESS
CHINESE AND SIZE OF PRC PRESENCE HERE.

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